

Please add the following new claims:

6. (New) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a solid core of at least one layer, an intermediate layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein

said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 0.8 to 2 mm and a Shore D hardness of 56 to 65, said cover has a gage  $G_2$  of 0.5 to 1.3 mm and a Shore D hardness of 37 to 50, and the gage  $G_1$  of said intermediate layer and the gage  $G_2$  of said cover satisfy  $[G_1/(G_1+G_2)] \times 100 \geq 45\%$ .

7. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 6 wherein said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 1 to 2 mm.

8. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 6 wherein said solid core undergoes a deflection of 3 to 4.5 mm under an applied load of 100 kg.

9. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 6 wherein said cover is formed of a cover material having a melt index of at least 3.0 dg/min at 190°C.

10. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 6 wherein said cover is formed of a urethane resin.

11. (New) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a solid core of at least one layer, an intermediate layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein

said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 0.8 to 2 mm and a Shore D hardness of 50 to 65, said cover has a gage  $G_2$  of 0.5 to 1.0 mm and a Shore D hardness of 37 to 53, and the gage  $G_1$  of said intermediate layer and the gage  $G_2$  of said cover satisfy  $[G_1/(G_1+G_2)] \times 100 \geq 45\%$ .

12. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 11 wherein said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 1 to 2 mm.

13. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 11 wherein said solid core undergoes a deflection of 3 to 4.5 mm under an applied load of 100 kg.

14. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 11 wherein said cover is formed of a cover material having a melt index of at least 3.0 dg/min at 190°C.

15. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 11 wherein said cover is formed of a urethane resin.

16. (New) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a solid core of at least one layer, an intermediate layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein

said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 0.8 to 2 mm and a Shore D hardness of 50 to 65 and is formed essentially of ionomer resins, said cover has a gage  $G_2$  of 0.5 to 1.3 mm and a Shore D hardness of 37 to 53, and the gage  $G_1$  of said intermediate layer and the gage  $G_2$  of said cover satisfy  $[G_1/(G_1+G_2)] \times 100 \geq 45\%$ .

17. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 16 wherein said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 1 to 2 mm.

18. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 16 wherein said solid core undergoes a deflection of 3 to 4.5 mm under an applied load of 100 kg.

19. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 16 wherein said cover is formed of a cover material having a melt index of at least 3.0 dg/min at 190°C.

20. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 16 wherein said cover is formed of a urethane resin.

21. (New) A multi-piece solid golf ball comprising a solid core of at least one layer, an intermediate layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein

said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 0.8 to 2 mm and a Shore D hardness of 50 to 65, said cover has a gage  $G_2$  of 0.5 to 1.3 mm and a Shore D hardness of 37 to 53 and is essentially formed of urethane resin, and wherein the gage  $G_1$  of said intermediate layer and the gage  $G_2$  of said cover satisfy  $[G_1/(G_1+G_2)] \times 100 \geq 45\%$ .

22. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 21 wherein said intermediate layer has a gage  $G_1$  of 1 to 2 mm.

23. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 21 wherein said solid core undergoes a deflection of 3 to 4.5 mm under an applied load of 100 kg.

24. (New) The multi-piece solid golf ball of claim 21 wherein said cover is formed of a cover material having a melt index of at least 3.0 dg/min at 190°C.